

TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING
December 5, 2017

Present: Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Will Barnes, Mary Grace Bright, Mike Coles, Johnny Craft, Raymond Oakes; Manager Joe Johnson, Attorney Cliff Parsons

Absent: None

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jackson led the Board of Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Recognition of Persons to be Heard:

1. Hattie Marshburn of 6920 Smith Street came before the Board to complain about her high water bill. She stated that she is very dissatisfied with her bill and does not understand how her usage is so much. She also stated that she did not understand how they read the meters when there is so much dirt on top of the lid. Manager Johnson explained that the lids do not have to be raised for the meters to be read. He explained the process. Mayor Jackson communicated to Manager Johnson that he would like for the utilities department to go check Ms. Marshburn's leak detector on her meter.
2. Linwood Dixon of 6917 Smith Street came before the Board with his concerns of the drainage culverts on Smith Street and the ditch on Tucker Street. He feels these areas are why water stands after rain.
3. Earl Davis of 303 Harvey Circle came before the Board to express his concerns with the cat problem in Grifton. He feels we need to create a process where if anybody is caught harboring or feeding stray cats they should be put in jail.

Public Hearing

Mayor Jackson stated that we are now in a public hearing and explained the rules of the hearing process.

Mayor Jackson stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to hear public comment to re-zone parcel#77136 off Brown Hodges Road from an R-14 zoning district to a RA-20MH zoning.

Mr. Tom Albritton stated that he is before the Board today to request that his property be rezoned from R-14 to RA-20MH to allow a mobile home on this property.

There were no other public comments.

Mayor Jackson closed the public hearing.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Re-Zoning – Parcel 77136

Manager Johnson was notified to place this item on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Bright asked if it was legal to put a re-zoning request on the consent agenda.

Manager Johnson stated that he would just place this item under Action Items for the Board to vote on individually if he found the consent agenda was not legal.

2. Water Rate Study Results

Manager Johnson stated that he heard back from Mike Hill at NCRWA who verified that the formula's he was using were correct. Manager Johnson presented the same proposed rates as the month before. However, he added #13 for consideration which would be an increasing rate. Manager Johnson explained that with an increasing rate we would be considered a better candidate for any possible grants.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Coles made a motion to place example 13 on the agenda at next week's meeting. After no motions or seconds the motion failed.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to amend Commissioner Coles motion to put examples 10 and 13 on the agenda for consideration at next week's meeting.

Commissioner Coles seconded the motion. Commissioner Craft and Commissioner Oakes opposed the motion. The motion carried 3 to 2.

Commissioner Bright stated that when looking at your bill you need to look at the number of days in the billing cycle. She feels it should be a priority to try and make the readings be in a 30 to 31 day billing period each month instead of anywhere from 28 to 34 days. She also feels the electronic readers should be calibrated periodically.

Manager's Update

1. Manager Johnson stated that Pearson Pump has given a quote in the amount of \$40,338.00 to repair the well. He commented that he would look towards trying to compute this figure into the next fiscal year budget.

The Board advised Manager Johnson to obtain more than one quote for consideration.

2. Manager Johnson informed the Board that a quote of \$1800.00 had been given to place lights at the Overlook Park. The Board informed Manager Johnson to get more than one quote.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Oakes asked about the protocol for weekend emergencies such as water leaks. Manager Johnson explained the process. Commissioner Oakes shared his experience with an incident involving a water leak that happened on a weekend. He feels the on-call person should notify the caller when an effort has been made to fix the problem or that the problem has been identified. Commissioner Oakes stated that he waited until Monday to report another leak and as of today the leak still has not been fixed. He feels the lines need to be fixed when there is a leak. He commented that we are looking at increasing rates to the citizens and we need to be accountable for water leaks as well.

Commissioner Oakes asked what happened to the new utility truck.

Manager Johnson stated that Mr. Raynor backed into a tree.

Commissioner Oakes expressed his sincere appreciation to the Christmas Parade Committee and the Shad Festival for the activities on Saturday and all their hard work.

Commissioner Oakes asked if a price had been obtained for the cat monitors.

Manager Johnson stated that he has not gotten to that yet.

Commissioner Oakes asked that the utilities department keep a check on Ms. Marshburn's meter.

Mayor Jackson stated that there is a considerable leak on the corner of Church and Queen St. that needs attention as well.

Commissioner Bright expressed her sincere appreciation to the Christmas Parade committee, the Catch the Vision Committee, and the Shad Committee for their hard work on Saturday.

Commissioner Bright asked if the light poles she had concerns about had been addressed.

Manager Johnson stated that Duke stated that they are in the process of getting them all fixed and updated.

Commissioner Bright asked if the lights on Main Street had been upgraded yet.

Manager Johnson stated that he would follow up on this issue.

Commissioner Bright asked if Manager Johnson has had opportunity to address the ordinance for cats.

Manager Johnson stated that he has not had time.

Commissioner Coles commented that this is his last meeting and gave his farewell speech stating that there have been trying times and moments. He also commented that the Commissioners should be thanked because of their involvement behind the scenes and he will miss working with all the folks in the community. He encouraged the public to contact their Commissioners with questions or concerns. He stated that he would be pushing the Veteran's Overlook Park and he also feels the Grifton Fire Department would become an ideal home for Grifton EMS. He concluded by stated that he has sincerely enjoyed his time on the Board.

There being no further business Commissioner Bright made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Angel Hudson

Town Clerk